

Filed for intro on 06/11/2001

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 445

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION To designate a segment of State Route 126 in Blountville, Sullivan County as the "Great Stage Road".

WHEREAS, The original Great Stage Road made Blountville, in Sullivan County, a center of trade and migration for eighty years; and

WHEREAS, Early roads in the territory and the State were old buffalo trails or Indian paths leading west and south from Pennsylvania to Virginia; and

WHEREAS, The first road was the Island Road that led into Sullivan County to the Holston River; and

WHEREAS, This road by-passed Blountville, but in 1795, the road was re-routed and named the Stage Road; and

WHEREAS, The Great Stage Road made Blountville a major terminus for the tens of thousands of settlers who were moving westward over the Appalachians; and

WHEREAS, On this road traveled Andrew Jackson, William McKinley, the Marquis de Lafayette, and Louis Phillipe, the exiled King of France; and

WHEREAS, When the owner of Rotherwood, Frederick A. Ross, arrived on the Great Stage Road he wrote in his journal about readying himself to enter "Blountville the first town in Tennessee"; and

WHEREAS, The Great Stage Road was the major route for the largest western movement in the history of the Republic; and

WHEREAS, The Sullivan County Board of County Commissioners has memorialized this body to name a segment of State Route 126 (Main Street) in Blountville to permanently commemorate the important role that the Great Stage Road has played in the panoramic history of Blountville, Sullivan County and the great State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly most heartily concurs with this excellent proposal to appropriately recognize the importance of the Great Stage Road in Sullivan County and Blountville, the county seat; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the segment of State Route 126 (Main Street) in Blountville, Sullivan County from such route's intersection with State Route 394 to its intersection with Blountville Boulevard is hereby designated as the "Great Stage Road" to raise awareness of this historic road's landmark status in the early history and settlement of Sullivan County and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such segment of State Route 126 as the "Great Stage Road".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution shall become operative only if the Federal Highway Administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the

provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in addition to the requirements of the preceding resolving clause, this resolution shall become operative only if Sullivan County, Tennessee, either (1) remits the estimated cost of the erection of such signs to the Department of Transportation within one (1) year of the effective date of this resolution, or (2) manufactures and erects such signs pursuant to state and federal guidelines and as approved by the Department. If electing option (1), Sullivan County shall make such payment prior to any expenditure by the State for manufacture or installation of such signs. The Department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to Sullivan County within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, Sullivan County shall remit an amount equal to the difference in such costs to the Department within thirty (30) days of receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation and to the Sullivan County Board of County Commissioners.